



Department
for International
Development



Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP
Secretary of State

For supporters of the Global Citizen campaign –
Global Education at the Commonwealth summit.

Our ref:

178765

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Thank you for contacting DFID regarding the recent Global Partnership for Education (GPE) replenishment PE and the upcoming Commonwealth Summit.

I am proud that the UK has been by far the leading investor in GPE since it was initiated. We have invested over one billion dollars in the fund and by capping our investments we have incentivised others to step up. The UK's pledge of £225 million over three years compares to the £210 million we spent over the previous four year period. This means that our annual contribution to GPE will increase by almost 50% to £75 million per year. The funding will be used to keep 880,000 children in school each year, train 170,000 teachers and build over 2400 new classrooms. This significant increase reflects the results that GPE has achieved to date and our continued strong commitment to this mechanism.

You will be pleased to know that our support for GPE goes beyond funding. We will continue to play an active role on the GPE board and we are committed to further increasing our engagement to help drive improvements in GPE delivery. We also invest significantly in other education programmes spending an average of £966m per year. From 2010 to 2015, DFID supported 11.3 million children in primary and lower secondary education, of which 5.3 million were girls, exceeding DFID's commitment of 11 million. From 2015 to 2017, DFID supported 7.1 million children to gain a decent education. This included at least 3.3 million girls. It is important to note that the UK's strong investments in other priorities such as nutrition and family planning are also vital in getting girls into school and ensuring they can stay there.

We prioritise the most vulnerable children, particularly those living in emergency and conflict settings.

In all our efforts, we will continue to champion hard-to-reach girls, including girls with disabilities and those affected by crises but also poor rural girls, pregnant girls and those vulnerable to early marriage. We will continue to work tirelessly to promote 12 years of quality education and learning and to improve the prospects of the large numbers who do not go on to secondary school. We are working closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to ensure that girls' education is featured at the upcoming Commonwealth Summit.

My Department's response to the global learning crisis and the call in Sustainable Development Goal 4 for "inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all" is represented in our ambitious new education policy, the main objective of which is driving up quality to get children learning the basics of literacy and numeracy, as well as transferable skills. The policy document can be found on our website at www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-education-policy-2018-get-children-learning.

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